

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01946 130649Z

11-R
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 /018 W
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O P 130532Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6864
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1946

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MANSFIELD, MICHAEL J.)
SUBJECT: CODEL MANSFIELD VISIT TO LAOS

REF A STATE 200344, B STATE 200581, C VIENTIANE 1943,
D VIENTIANE 1931

1. IN ORDER TO TRY TO ACCOMMODATE CODEL DESIRE TO TRAVEL ON MILITARY AIRCRAFT BECAUSE OF TIGHT SCHEDULE, AS STATED REF A, WE APPROACHED CHIEF OF PROTOCOL INFORMALLY AUGUST 13 TO SOUND OUT POSSIBILITY OF LAO PERMITTING BANGKOK ATTACHE PLANE TO FLY INTO VIENTIANE.
2. PROTOCOL CHIEF SAID "SOME COMRADES" MIGHT RAISE QUESTION IF US MILITARY AIRCRAFT FLEW INTO VIENTIANE AND ASKED WHETHER WE DID NOT HAVE A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER ATTACHE PLANE HAD MILITARY MARKINGS OR COULD IT BE IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO US AMBASSADOR BANGKOK RATHER THAN TO MILITARY ATTACHE.
3. ALTERNATIVELY, HE LIKED POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A CAR FROM LAOS TO NONGKHAI TO PICKUP CODEL IF ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO FLY IT EITHER TO UDORN OR NONGKHAI ITSELF.
4. IN ANY CASE, KHAMTHAN SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH SUPERIORS AND LET US KNOW WHETHER SPECIAL FLIGHT INTO VIENTIANE POSSIBLE

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OR IF CROSSING AT NONGKHAI PREFERABLE.

5. ALTHOUGH KHAMTHAN SAID HE WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS FROM SUPERIORS, HIS INITIAL DOUBT THAT MILITARY FLIGHT INTO VIENTIANE WOULD BE APPROVED AND HIS RECOLLECTION OF EARLIER PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH PROPOSED MILITARY FLIGHT FOR CODEL MONTGOMERY, MENTIONED REF D, REINFORCE OUR RECOMMENDATION IN THAT MESSAGE THAT WE SHOULD NOT PUSH CLEARANCE OF MILITARY FLIGHT.

6. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 3 REF A, LEAVE IT TO AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE TO WORK OUT BEST SCHEDULE POSSIBLE WITHIN THESE CONSTRAINTS. IF CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT COULD BE CHARTERED, THAT COULD BE ONE SOLUTION. OTHERWISE WE THINK IT BEST TO PLAN ON FLIGHT OR FLIGHTS TO AND FROM UDORN AND AUTOMOBILE/FERRY TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN UDORN AND VIENTIANE. IF LPDR DOES COME THROUGH WITH ACCEPTANCE OF DIRECT MILITARY FLIGHT IN AND OUT OF VIENTIANE, WHICH WE CAN NOT RPT NOT COUNT ON, WE SHALL INFORM YOU IMMEDIATELY.
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